DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 233 927 SO 014 792

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TITLE Using Data Bases in Social Studies. ERIC Fact Sheet No. 5.
INSTITUTION ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, Boulder, Colo.
PUB DATE Jun 82
NOTE 4p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Information Analyses - ERIC Information Analysis Products (071)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; Book Reviews; Catalogs; Computers; *Databases; Directories; Educational Technology; Encyclopedias; Government Publications; Indexes; *Information Retrieval; Information Seeking; Research Tools; *Search Strategies; *Social Sciences
IDENTIFIERS Fact Sheets; PF Project

ABSTRACT

Over 20 data bases available to social science educators are listed and described in this fact sheet. The data bases provide a wide variety of topics including American and world history, statistics, economics, philosophy, and social and political science. Educationally oriented data bases provide information on such topics as educational media, exceptional children, and special education. Indexes of congressional records, listings of foundation grants, and indexes of journals, newspapers, book reviews, and dissertations are accessible through a variety of specialized data bases. Also available are data bases containing: "The Encyclopedia of Associations," the machine readable equivalent of the printed "Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications," the "Foundation Directory," and the "U.S. Public School Directory." Descriptions, dates of coverage, and addresses for each data base are provided. (LH)

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USING DATA BASES IN SOCIAL STUDIES

ERIC FACT SHEET NO. 5

Regina McCormick

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ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education
Boulder, Colorado

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FACT SHEET NO. 5

June 1982

Using Data Bases in Social Studies

The problems that we as social studies educators face are as diverse as the students we serve. Solving these problems requires that we seek out and utilize a wide range of information, tasks that can be both difficult and time-consuming.

In seeking information, however, we do have an advantage over our colleagues in the past. That advantage is the ability to tap the many computer-accessible resources that are now available. Hundreds of libraries and organizations in all parts of the country now run computer searches for clients. The data bases to which these computer search services have access are many and varied. Each data base is unique, offering a particular kind of information. Knowing the right data base to search can therefore save time and money.

Below we have described some of the data bases we think will be most useful to social studies educators. If you want additional information about these data bases or about how you can obtain information from them, contact the nearest library with a computer search service or call or write ERIC/ChESS User Services (855 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302; 303/492-8434).

America: History and Life (ABC-Clio, Inc., P.O. Box 4397, Santa Barbara, CA 93103)
Coverage: 1964-present

America: History and Life (AHL) covers U.S. and Canadian history, area studies, and current affairs. Typical subject areas included are American studies, ethnic studies, family history, women's studies, historiography, local history, oral history, politics and government, teaching of history, science and technology, and urban affairs. International in scope, AHL indexes and abstracts more than 1,900 journals in the social sciences and humanities. Also indexed are books, book reviews, and dissertations.

American Statistics Index (Congressional Information Service, Inc., 4520 East-West Highway, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20014)
Coverage: 1973-present

If you're looking for statistical data on education, unemployment, population, economics, or any other issue, the on-line data base **American Statistics Index** (ASI) will be of interest. All U.S. government statistics are indexed and abstracted in ASI. Nongovernment publications containing social, economic, demographic, or natural resources data are also included. ASI indexes periodicals, one-time reports, and series.

Biography Master Index (Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226)
Coverage: 2,000,000 names

If you or your students need biographical information on a former U.S. president, a famous explorer, or another prominent person, **Biography Master Index** (BMI) is the data base to search. BMI has more than 2,000,000 indexed name entries, including both historical and living persons. Each record includes the person's name, date(s) of birth (and death), and the titles and dates of biographical sources.

Book Review Index (Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226)
Coverage: 1979-present

You are interested in reading reviews of Henry Kissinger's new book, *Years of Upheaval*. Where should you go? **Book Review Index** (BRI) will help you locate published reviews of books. BRI indexes all reviews of books and periodicals appearing in more than 380 journals.

Congressional Information Service (Congressional Information Service, Inc., 4520 East-West Highway, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20014)
Coverage: 1970-present

Students of U.S. history will be interested in the congressional working papers indexed by the **Congressional Information Service** (CIS). These working papers published by House, Senate, and joint committees and subcommittees are in various forms, including records of hearings, exhibit reports, statistical data, specially commissioned studies, and compilations of background materials concerning a broad range of issues.

Comprehensive Dissertation Index (University Microfilms, P.O. Box 1764, Ann Arbor, MI 48106)
Coverage: 1861-present

Every dissertation accepted at an accredited U.S. institution since 1861 is indexed in **Comprehensive Dissertation Index.** Some Canadian dissertations are also included.

Congressional Record Abstracts (Capitol Services, Inc., 415 Second Street, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20002)
Coverage: 1976-present

This data base indexes each issue of the **Congressional Record**, the official journal of the proceedings of the U.S. Congress. Activities regarding bills and resolutions, committee and subcommittee reports, public laws, executive communications, and speeches are covered.

Economics Abstracts International (Learned Information, Ltd., 37-39 Oxford St., London W1R, 2LL, England)
Coverage: 1974-present

Economics Abstracts International indexes worldwide literature on marketing, industries, country-specific economic data, and research in the fields of economic science and management. Books, journal articles, directories, and reports are covered.

Encyclopedia of Associations (Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226)
Coverage: current year

If you're trying to locate professional organizations, labor unions, fraternal and patriotic organizations, or trade associations, the **Encyclopedia of Associations** can help. Each record provides the address, phone number, and size of the organization, along with a description of its scope and purpose.

This fact sheet was compiled by Regina McCormick, director of the Social Science Education Consortium's Resource and Demonstration Center and computer search specialist for ERIC/ChESS.

ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) (ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, 4833 Rugby Ave., Suite 303, Bethesda, MD 20014)
Coverage: 1966 to present

Funded by the National Institute of Education, **ERIC** abstracts and indexes materials dealing with all levels and aspects of education. It consists of two main files. *Resources in Education* indexes research reports, conference papers, evaluation studies, course descriptions, classroom activities, course outlines, and other fugitive materials (i.e., materials not available through a commercial publisher). The second file, *Current Index to Journals in Education* (1969 to present), indexes journal articles. ERIC does *not* index dissertations.

Exceptional Child Education Resources (Council for Exceptional Children, 1920 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091)
Coverage: 1966-present

Books, journal articles, teaching materials, and reports dealing with the education of handicapped and gifted children are covered by this data base. **Exceptional Child Education Resources** (ECER) is a valuable supplement to ERIC, since only about one-fourth of the ECER citations are duplicated in ERIC.

Foundation Directory (The Foundation Center, 888 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019)
Coverage: current year's data

More than 3,500 foundations are described in the **Foundation Directory.** To be included, a foundation must have assets of at least $1 million or make grants of $100,000 or more annually.

Foundation Grants Index (The Foundation Center, 888 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019)
Coverage: January 1973-present

Foundation Grants Index describes grants awarded by American philanthropic foundations. This information is useful to educators looking for likely sources of funding, since foundations seldom announce the availability of funds for specific purposes.

GPO Monthly Catalog (Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20540)
Coverage: July 1976-present

All materials issued by U.S. federal government agencies, including the U.S. Congress, are included in this data base, the machine-readable equivalent of the printed **Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications.** Books about the space program, pamphlets on how to build a house, nutrition information, consumer information, books about history, maps, materials dealing with student rights, state-of-the-art summaries on major issues, and educational research are some examples of the publications included.

Historical Abstracts (ABC-Clio, Inc., P.O. Box 4397, Santa Barbara, CA 93103)
Coverage: 1973-present

This data base covers the history of the world from 1450 to the present. The United States and Canada are excluded because they are covered in **America: History and Life.** More than 2,000 journals published in 90 countries and some 30 languages are indexed in **Historical Abstracts.**

Magazine Index (Information Access Corp., 885 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022)
Coverage: 1976-present

More than 370 general and popular magazines, such as *Time, Newsweek,* and *Scientific American,* are indexed in **Magazine Index.** Current affairs, sports, recreation and travel, science and technology, consumer product evaluations, and leisure time activities are covered extensively.

National Newspaper Index (Information Access Corp., 885 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022)
Coverage: 1979-present

Front- to back-page coverage of *The Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times,* and the *Wall Street Journal* is provided. The only items not included are weather charts, stock market tables, crossword puzzles, and horoscopes.

Newsearch (Information Access Corp., 885 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022)
Coverage: current month only

Newsearch is a daily index of news stories, informational articles, and book reviews from newspapers and magazines. The previous day's news stories are indexed and added to **Newsearch** on a daily basis. At the end of the month, the entries are added to other data bases, such as **Magazine Index** and **National Newspaper Index.**

NICEM (National Information Center for Educational Media, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90007)
Coverage: 1964-present

Nonprint educational materials from preschool to graduate school levels are indexed in the **NICEM** data base. Included are 16mm films, 35mm filmstrips, overhead transparencies, audiotapes, videotapes, phonograph records, motion picture cartridges, and slides.

NICSEM/NIMIS (National Information Center for Special Educational Materials, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90007)
Coverage: 1977-present (publication dates extend earlier)

Media and devices for use with disabled children are described in **NICSEM/NIMIS**. Included are media and related equipment, large print and braille books, and many types of adaptive equipment and devices for all disabilities.

Philosopher's Index (Philosophy Documentation Center, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403)
Coverage: 1940-present

Books and journals of philosophy and related interdisciplinary fields are indexed and abstracted in this data base. It includes material on the philosophy of such disciplines as education, history, law, and religion.

Social Sciearch (The Institute for Scientific Information, 325 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106)
Coverage: 1972-present

Social Sciearch indexes important social science journals from around the world. Many important monographs are also included. This data base is unique in that it can be searched via an author's cited references.

United States Political Science Documents (University of Pittsburgh, University Center for International Studies, 4G30 Forbes Quadrangle, Pittsburgh, PA 15260)
Coverage: 1975-present

Major American political science journals are indexed and abstracted in the **United States Political Science Documents** (USPSD). Areas covered include foreign policy, international relations, behavioral sciences, public administration, economics, law and contemporary problems, and world politics.

U.S. Public School Directory (National Center for Educational Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202)
Coverage: current year

This data base provides data on public schools throughout the United States and its territories. Public, vocational/technical, and alternative education schools are listed. Information provided for each includes number of teachers and students, student/teacher ratio, school name, and address.